

Serial No. 09/613,389

January 19, 2004

Reply to the Office Action dated October 27, 2003

Page 4 of 5

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 and CANCELS claim 1.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 9, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to be independent form and to recite all of the features of claim 1 and has amended claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 to depend upon claim 2.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. 5,802,196). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1, 3-8, 11, and 12.

As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 2 to be independent form and to recite all of the features of claim 1 and has amended claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 to depend upon claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. 5,802,196) and claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 3-12 depend upon claim 2 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 2 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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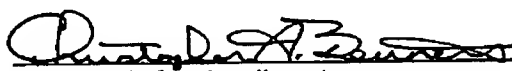
Reply to the Office Action dated October 27, 2003

Page 5 of 5

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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